participation in International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions. The Board also takes up Indian exports of tobacco products at bilateral fora and is presently pursuing the floating of tenders for Indian tobacco by some countries in Africa.

Malaysian Investment in India

3102. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Malaysian companies are keen to make investment in India;

(b) if so, the areas in which those Malaysian Companies propose to make investment;

(c) whether any trade pact has been signed with those companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Malaysian companies have shown interest in investing in India in a wide range of areas such as infrastruction, computer, software, tele-communications, chemicals, industrial machinery, oil plantations, food processing industry. Since the announcement of the New Industrial Policy, 17 proposals envisaging foreign direct investment of Rs. 210,21 crores from Malaysian companies have been approved till the end of January 1995 While no trade pact has been signed, some Memoranda of Understanding have been entered into by some companies.

Financing of Tea Industry by NABARD

3103. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2029 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th March, 199? and state:

(a) whether the NABARO is going to finance the Tea Industry for its overall growth; and

(b) it so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) NABARD has been extending assistance to tea industry through re-finance support to the commercial banks for long term financial requirements of the industry in its developmental activities.

India's stand on 'Social Clause' Endorsed by U.K.

3104. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.K. has recently endorsed India's stand on 'social clause' in connection with World Trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In a speach to the Thornton Latin American Conference on 1st February 1995 the Secretary of State for Employment of the U. K. stated *inter alia* that the U.K. will continue to resist calls to impose social clauses on developing nations and nations in transition and that the quickest and most effective way to raise social standards in these countries is to give the people of these countries access to markets in richer countries.

Review of Uruguay round package urged by World-wide fund for Nature

3105. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Worldwide Fund for Nature has called for review of the Uruguay Round agricultural pack

age to guard against dumping by developed countries and has stressed that the developing countries be allowed to impose restrictions on some imports in order to Piomote sustainable agricultural development;

(b) whether in a recent study, the WWF has also appealed to Governments to undertake an indepth study of the impact of General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) on the environment and food security of their countries before implementing its provisions;

(c) if so, Government's reaction on reviewing the Uruguay Rounds farm package;

(d) whether the UN Environment Programme has set up a technical working group on "environmental review of trade policies'; and

(e) if so, whether India is also associated with this group in any manner and if not, the reasons for ignoring it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The negotiations in the Uruguay Round have concluded.

(d) Government has not been informed by UNEP about the setting-up of any technical working group, on the subject.

(e) Does not arise.

Dwindling Exports and Lower domestic consumption witting Tea productiontargets

3106. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether dwindling exports and tower domestic consumption will slow down the country's efforts to achieve its amlutious production target of one billion kg. of tea by the turn of the century;

(b) the reasons for the country's share of worm tea exports having rafften below 20 *per* cent while domestic constanptiion growth Being bropped to 30 per cent in the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken to raise the cutput of tea and boost the capita domestic demand by increasing per capita consumption and re-work the target taking Output with marketaoility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. The domestic consumption of tea has been experiencing a steady increase of 20 to 22 mnkg per annum over the last few years. However, there has been a decline in export of tea in the last three years. It is a temporary phenomenon owing mainly to less import of tea by Russia and other CIS countries which accounted for nearly 50 per cent of India's exports Inspite of this setback, all out efforts are being made to enhance producton in order to meet the set targets.

(b) and (c) The main reason for decline in India's share in the world market are attributable to: (i) Less intake by Iran, Egypt, Russia and other CIS countries owing to their own internal problems. (ii) Flooding of world market with cheap tea by Sri Lanka, Kenya, Indonesia etc.

In order to increase production, Tea Board has been operating various development schemes. The Board has also prepared a perspective plan to increase production of tea which includes short-term measures such as optimisation of inputs and improved agricultural practices; medium term measures such as irrigation, drainage, rejuvanation, pruning and infiling; as well as long-term measures such as re-planting and extension planting.